

CLAIMS

1. A mobile terminal capable of supporting a plurality of accessory functions with one or more accessories, the mobile terminal capable of supporting each
5 accessory function in two or more modes, and each accessory storing a capability array indicative of the capabilities of the accessory; the mobile terminal comprising:
- reading means for reading a capability array from an accessory;
- interpreting means for interpreting a capability array read by the reading
10 means in accordance with a predefined format as including one or more fields, each field corresponding to an accessory function;
- identifying means for identifying a mode of an accessory function in dependence on the content of a field of the capability array, the field corresponding to the accessory function; and
- 15 supporting means responsive to the identifying means for supporting the accessory function with the accessory in the mode identified by the identifying means.
2. A mobile terminal as claimed in claim 1, wherein the accessory function
20 corresponds to a capability of an accessory.
3. A mobile terminal as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the mode is a mode of operation.
- 25 4. A mobile terminal as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the capability array comprises at least one data block.
5. A mobile terminal as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the contents of the fields in the capability array are bit values.

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6. A mobile terminal as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the predetermined format comprises fields in adjacent bit positions.

7. A mobile terminal as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the mobile
5 terminal comprises connecting means for connecting to an accessory.

8. A mobile terminal as claimed in claim 7, wherein the connecting means is an interface.

10 9. A mobile terminal as claimed in claim 8, wherein the interface is one of a wired interface, an infrared interface or a Bluetooth interface.

10. A mobile terminal as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the accessory function is one of a data bus function, an audio function, a music
15 playback function, and an antenna function.

11. A method in a mobile terminal capable of supporting a plurality of accessory functions with one or more accessories, the mobile terminal capable of supporting each accessory function in two or more modes, and each accessory
20 storing a capability array indicative of the capabilities of the accessory; the method comprising the steps of:

reading a capability array from an accessory;

interpreting a read capability array in accordance with a predefined format as including one or more fields, each field corresponding to an accessory
25 function;

identifying a mode of an accessory function in dependence on the content of a field of the capability array, the field corresponding to the accessory function;
and

supporting, in response to the step of identifying, the accessory function
30 with the accessory in the mode identified.

12. An accessory for a mobile terminal, the accessory being capable of providing a plurality of accessory functions and having storage means for storing a capability array indicative of the capabilities of the accessory, and wherein said capability array may be interpreted by a mobile terminal in accordance with a predefined format, the format comprising a plurality of fields, each field corresponding to an accessory function provided by the accessory, at least one field identifying a mode in which that accessory is capable of supporting that accessory function.
13. An accessory for a mobile terminal as claimed in claim 12, wherein each accessory function corresponds to a capability of the accessory.
14. An accessory for a mobile terminal as claimed in claim 12 or 13, wherein the mode is a mode of operation.
15. An accessory for a mobile terminal as claimed in any of claims 12 to 14, wherein the capability array comprises at least one data block.
16. An accessory for a mobile terminal as claimed in any of claims 12 to 15, wherein the contents of the fields in the capability array are bit values.
17. An accessory for a mobile terminal as claimed in any of claims 12 to 16, wherein the predetermined format comprises fields in adjacent bit positions.
18. An accessory for a mobile terminal as claimed in any of claims 12 to 17, wherein the accessory comprises connecting means for connecting to a mobile terminal.
19. An accessory for a mobile terminal as claimed in claim 18, wherein the connecting means is an interface.

20. An accessory for a mobile terminal as claimed in claim 19, wherein the interface is one of a wired interface, an infrared interface or a Bluetooth interface.

21. An accessory for a mobile terminal as claimed in any of claims 12 to 20,
5 wherein the accessory function is one of a data bus function, an audio function, a music playback function, and an antenna function.

22. An accessory for a mobile terminal as claimed in any of claims 12 to 21,
10 wherein the accessory is one of a camera headset, a hands free headset, and a data cable.

23. A method of operation of an accessory for a mobile terminal, the accessory being capable of providing a plurality of accessory functions and having storage means for storing a capability array indicative of the capabilities of the accessory,
15 and wherein said capability array may be interpreted by a mobile terminal in accordance with a predefined format, the format comprising a plurality of fields, each field corresponding to an accessory function provided by the accessory, at least one field identifying a mode in which that accessory is capable of supporting that accessory function; the method comprising providing by means of such an
20 accessory the capability array to a mobile terminal.